

NEWS

Payette National Forest

United States
Department of
Agriculture

500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638
208-634-0700



Date: April 20, 2016

Contact: Brian Harris (208) 634-0784 cell: (208) 634-6945

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commercial Mushroom Permits Available on the Payette National Forest

McCall, ID – The Payette National Forest is announcing the following guidelines for personal and commercial wild mushroom picking this year on the Forest. Following last summer's wildfires, morel (more-ELL) mushrooms are anticipated to appear in burned areas of the forests. Use caution in recently burned areas due to stump holes, snags, and loose soil or rocks.

Personal Use: Harvesters may gather up to 5 gallons of morels or other mushrooms per day for personal use without a permit. There is no age limit on personal use mushroom pickers. Personal use mushrooms may not be sold or bartered to another party.

Commercial Use: Commercial Mushroom permits will be available starting Monday, May 2, 2016. Each individual selling or bartering any mushrooms *or* gathering more than 5 gallons per day is required to have a valid **Commercial Permit**. They must have this permit in their possession while gathering and transporting mushrooms. A 21-day commercial gathering permit costs \$200 dollars. When purchasing a permit, commercial mushroom harvesters must present an acceptable form of identification such as a Birth Certificate, Green Card, State ID, Passport, Tribal ID, or other identification issued by a Federal or State Government. Commercial permits will not be sold to anyone under the age of 18 years old.

Commercial mushroom permits will only be available for the New Meadows and McCall Ranger Districts of the Payette National Forest and will only be sold at those district offices during their regular business hours of 8a.m. to 4:30p.m. Commercial permits will not be available at local vendors.

The Payette National Forest is not issuing buying permits and buying stations will not be permitted to operate on Forest land. Commercial pickers and buyers may not camp in developed campgrounds. Dispersed camping within five miles of the same site for a period longer than 18 days in any 30 consecutive days is prohibited.

"We want the public to enjoy this delicious seasonal treat, while at the same time managing the potential impacts of a larger commercial harvest," said Brian Harris, Payette National Forest Public Affairs Officer. "Having a permit system that accommodates both personal use and commercial harvest allows us to do both."

For complete information or to purchase a commercial mushroom permit, please contact the following offices:

New Meadows Ranger District
3674 Highway 95
New Meadows, ID 83654
(208) 347-0300

McCall Ranger District
102 W. Lake Street
McCall, ID 83638
(208) 634-0400

###